

# Luke 20

## Luke 20.1-8

V1 – This is still in the last week before the crucifixion

- Some have tried to list what took place each day of the last week, but that is very difficult to do
- Attitude of the Jewish leaders?** To trap Jesus

V2 – The question of authority – the most important question we have in the Lord's church

- So many things have been added to the simple worship of the New Testament
- "By what authority?" – We need to constantly be asking this question
- The Mormons have white bread and water for the Lord's Supper – **Where is their authority for that?**
- Did they argue with the miracles?** No
- Had Jesus already told them where he got his authority?** Yes, many times

V3 – Jesus frequently answered a question with another question

V4 – **What was his question?** The baptism of John the Baptist

V5-6 – **How were they trapped?** Either answer would condemn them

V7 – **Their answer?** They didn't know

V8 – **Why did Jesus refuse to answer this question?** They were not really searching for the truth

- They were only interested in trapping Jesus

## Luke 20.9-18

V9 – **Basic details:** Tenant farmers were given use of the land – the owner was gone for a long time

V10 – **What happened at harvest time?** The owner wanted his "rent" in produce

- Who was sent?** A slave
- What happened to him?** He was beaten and sent back

V11 – Another slave was sent

- What happened to him?** The same thing

V12 – The third slave was sent

- What happened to him?** He was wounded

V13 – **The attitude of the landowner?** Surely they will respect my son

- This is really an answer to their question about his authority

V14 – **Was their reasoning correct?** No, even if the son died, they would still have to deal with the father

**V 15** – **What happened to the son?** They killed him

**V 16** – **What happened to those who killed the son?** They were destroyed

-**What was the reaction of the listeners?** In horror

-The Pharisees saw the implications of the parable immediately (that it applied to them)

**V 17** – A quote from *Psalm 118.22*

-**What was the message of this Old Testament passage?** That the Jewish people would reject their own savior (the chief cornerstone)

**V 18** – Jesus was like a rock – **How so?**

-*V 18a* - Those who initially reject Jesus will be broken into pieces (their arrogant spirit will be broken)

-*V 18b* – However, if people continue to reject Christ, at his Second Coming he will pulverize all who rejected his message and died in that disobedient state

-In other words, it is far better to be "broken" by the gospel than to be "pulverized" by the gospel

-Let us make sure that we are in the first group, not the second, and that when the gospel breaks down our pride and selfish spirit, we will respond to the offer of salvation through the gospel of Christ

## **Luke 20.19-26**

**V 19** – **Why did the Jewish leaders try to take Jesus "that very hour"?** Because people generally get mad when they are shown to be wrong

-They had gotten the clear message of the parable

-The wounded animal is the most fierce

**V 20** – **Purpose of these spies?** To catch Jesus in some misstatement or error

-This writer remembers a person who tape recorded his sermons so that she might be able to catch him in some mistake and condemn him

**V 21** – **How would we describe v 21?** Flattery (false)

-They wanted to encourage Jesus to trip himself up and commit treason against the Roman Empire

**V 22** – **What had Jesus recently done that might have encouraged this question?** The cleansing of the temple

-Also, the Jews were stubborn people – they did not like to pay taxes to the Roman Empire

-The Jews thought: If he endorses paying taxes, then the masses will leave him, because they also hated the Romans

**V 23** – He detected their hypocrisy

**V 24** – This Roman coin was worth about 15 cents

-According to brother Boles, the Jews did not believe in putting images on coins (because of the Second Commandment which forbade graven images)

-Also, the use of a certain currency means that they were in subjection to the government which issued the currency

**V 25 – What was Jesus' answer?** We have some obligations to the government, and we have some obligations to God

-Where else is this principle set forth? Read Romans 13.1-7

**V 26 – What was the reaction from those who heard his answer?** They marveled and became silent

-How could anyone criticize his answer? All had to agree with what he said (it was such a logical answer)

[Find a photograph of a denarius in any standard Bible dictionary or on the Internet]

-It is interesting that Jesus showed no disrespect to Caesar

**Luke 20.27-40** (parallel accounts: *Matt. 22.23-33, Mark 12.18-27*)

**V 27 – Definition of a Sadducee? Read Acts 23.8** – They did not believe in a resurrection or in any kind of spirit life (including angels)

-They were the liberals of the day

-They did not survive the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. (the Pharisees did)

-Many times people will have a "trick" question they will pull on a visiting preacher

-So here they thought they would try their test case on Jesus

-Test questions today: Where did Cain get his wife? If David had 6 wives, what is wrong with having several marriages and divorces today? If instrumental music is used in *Psalms 150*, why can't we use it in worship today?

**V 28 - What was the statement of Moses?** The levirate marriage law of the Old Testament, that when a brother died without children, a remaining brother could raise up children with the widow, and those children would legally be the children of the dead brother

**V 29-33** – The application – **Describe their story:** 7 brothers all died without children, and finally the widow died

-This was obviously a fictitious case – This would never, ever happen in real life

-The Sadducees must have thought this was impossible to answer

**V 33 – What were they trying to prove with their story?** That there was no resurrection of the dead

**V 34 – How did Jesus answer them?** They did not know the Scriptures (see *Matt. 22.29*)

-Is there such a thing as sexual relations now? Yes, in this age

-Why? Because we are still living in this life

-What will be the situation when the dead are raised? No marrying or giving in marriage

**V 35-36** – There will be no death in that age, but we will be like the angels

-In other words, there will be no need for reproduction (since no-one will die)

-That was the end of their argument

**V 37-38** – Now Jesus had a question for them (probably no-one had ever been able to answer their argument)

-Jesus took *Exod. 3.6* and proved that there is a resurrection of the dead

-What was his argument? If Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were dead, then God lied in *Exod. 3.6*

-God cannot be the God of dead people

-Does our president have authority over people in the cemetery? No – he is not the God of the

dead

-Therefore, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are alive – what an absolutely tremendous argument!

V 39-40 – Responses of the listeners – They were amazed at his answer

**Luke 20.41-47** (parallel accounts: *Matt. 22.41-46, 23.1-13, Mark 12.35-40*)

V 41 – Jesus was unrelenting

-He had a question for them – **What was his question?** How could be the Messiah be the son of David (*Psalms 110.1*)?

-**What was the answer?** Jesus existed from eternity, but came through the human genealogy of David

-The Jews had a great problems dealing with the divine side of Jesus and hearing his claims that he was the Messiah

-"Is this not Joseph's son?" "The carpenter's son?" etc.

-This was their greatest grudge against Jesus

V 42-43 – The Messiah was to be a descendant of David, but still his "Lord"

-**Does a father normally call one of his descendants "Lord"?** No

-Yet David did in *Psalms 110.1*

V 44 – A summary of the question he was asking them

V 45-46 – **Caution about studying with the Pharisees:** They were dangerous to people seeking the truth

-**What did the Pharisees like?** Long robes, respectful greetings, chief seats, places of honor

V 47 – **What else did they like?** To devour widows' houses and offer long prayers

-**Why will they receive a greater condemnation?** Because they were supposed to be experts in the word of God

Revised 2013-01-05